

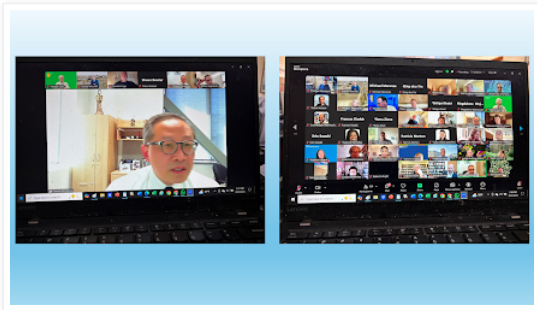
UCLA Faculty Association

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Monday, March 31, 2025

The Special Assembly Meeting of March 25, 2025



There were action items on the agenda of the special March 25th, 2 pm, systemwide Assembly meeting of the Academic Senate which had been called by petition. A little over 300 people were on the Zoom call at the start of the meeting. Most were not members of the Assembly. Yours truly attended so you didn't have to.

The first item asked that across-the-board pay increases for administrators from dean on up occur at the same time as those for regular faculty. In recent years, the former had been getting increases on July 1 and the faculty on October 1. It became clear from the discussion that this vote was largely symbolic of concern by faculty about excessive salaries for top management. Chair Steven Cheung at one point called the resolution "mean-spirited." That remark set off some controversy. A vote was taken first by electronic hand raising. Twenty were reported as in favor, 2 abstained, and 23 voted against. There was some uncertainty about the accuracy of the vote and a roll call was pursued which came out about the same. It was ruled that the motion had failed.

The second matter dealt with a report about converting the entire UC system to a common calendar of semesters. It was said that ultimately it would be the decision of the Regents, were such a conversion to happen. There was debate about the merit of semesters vs. quarters, about the cost of making a transition, and whether it would be best to let the Senate process run its course before making any decisions.

Chair Cheung said that there is currently no plan for changing calendars at UCOP. Several speakers indicated that given the current budgetary situation, federal funding, and other challenges facing UC, this was not a time to consider adding the burden of changing the calendar.

There was an action item over a motion that initially assumed any change would be from quarters (for those campuses on quarters) to semesters. A clarifying point was that UC-San Francisco - because it has no undergraduates - would be exempt. The motion was amended to suggest that there be a campus-by-campus vote on adopting a common calendar (whatever that might be) versus remaining on each campus's existing calendar. But by the time a vote might have been taken (around 3:50 pm), a quorum of Assembly members had been lost.

As a result, no vote was taken and the matter will either be taken up again at another special session or at the next regular meeting of the Assembly if there is room on the agenda.

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Note: Do you have a sense that not much was accomplished after two meetings and one meeting that was aborted by a technical glitch? Yours truly does.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UC](#), [UC-San Francisco](#)

The Endless Scams

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon](#)
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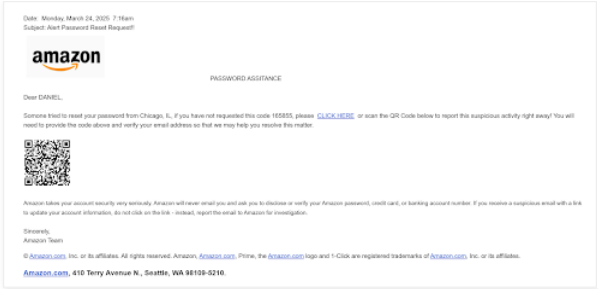
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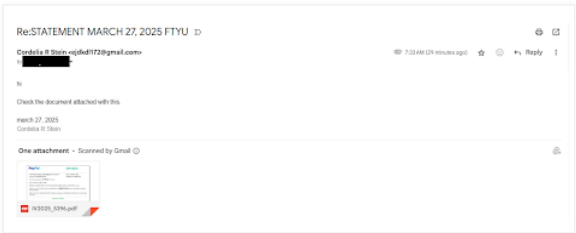
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You know enough not to respond in any way to messages like the one above, don't you? One hint is that the word "assistance" is incorrectly spelled. Another is that it comes from a weird email address. Basically, even without such hints, if you get an email, phone message, or text from a company, never directly respond. Instead look up the phone number or contact information from the company and use that information to find out if there is really a problem.

=====

Here's another scam from "Cordelia":



Note the odd return email address. Things didn't work out well for the Cordelia in King Lear. They won't work out well for you if you engage with this Cordelia.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Law Deans' Letter

Letter from Law Deans (including UCLA) dated March 26, 2025:

As deans of law schools, we have a special responsibility for the legal profession. Recently, the federal government has imposed significant sanctions on the law firms of Perkins Coie, Covington & Burling, Paul Weiss, and Jenner & Block seemingly because of the clients they and their lawyers represented and litigation in which their lawyers participated.



We write to reaffirm basic principles:
The government should not punish lawyers and law firms for the clients they represent, absent specific findings that such representation was illegal or unethical. Punishing lawyers for their representation and advocacy violates the First Amendment and undermines the Sixth Amendment.

We thus speak as legal educators, responsible for training the next generation of lawyers, in condemning any government efforts to punish lawyers or their firms based on the identity of their clients or for their zealous lawful and ethical advocacy.

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Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7310732031653523458/>.

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enrollment (251) UC-San Diego (241) community colleges (232) LAO (217) UC-Irvine (180) fund raising (161) UC-San Francisco (149) UC-Santa Barbara (149) UC-Santa Cruz (148) controller (139) faculty center (137) UC-Riverside (132) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (120) UC-Merced (107) faculty pay (107) Master Plan (102) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (60) Faculty Association at UCLA (59) parking (59) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (33) copyright (30) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

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Letter to Columbia University
Detailing Conditions...

We're waiting for the
explanation

Almost One Third

New Slogan

The Medi-Cal Squeeze on the
State Budget

Behind Closed Doors

When the nickel and diming
begins...

Worth Watching

Hassling the Regents

Scrambling for pennies - Part 2

The Davis Locker Divide

Letter to Columbia University
Detailing Conditions...

San Diego Freeze - Part 2

More Online Retirement
Programs Today

Supporting Our Immigrant and
International Communi...

NIL Battle to Resolve in April
(maybe)

CUCFA Town Hall

Cut in Half

The List

More Cuts

Someone will eventually get
hurt

Email from chancellor on
antisemitism

Scrambling for pennies

Online Retirement Programs
Today

You probably didn't forget, but
just in case...

UCLA Cut

Some retirees will benefit - Part
2

The Regents Are Coming to
UCLA: March 18-20, 2025

Remember?

UCLA Forecast - Part 2

Columbia Cut

Applications Up

Pack 'em in

Funding Slowed and Stopped

UCLA Forecast

The 15% Cap - Part 6

It takes time

Upcoming Subway Warning for
Late Evening

Whoops!

Temporary Evacuation of 200
Building

PhD Plans (Between the Lines)

Pretending

Told you so

Revamped Broxton Plaza

No Sugarcoating

New Real Estate Development
Degree

Overbilling

The Visit

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► 2020 (914)

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► 2016 (715)

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments:     

Labels: politics, UCLA

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 9 (Rationale)

Although the item below was put out by a Columbia University group of alumni and others, you can likely take it to be a quasi-official rationale as to why Columbia is doing what it is doing. It is expressed in less diplomatic language than the University would likely utilize. But it's hard to believe that the group would publish it without tacit support of the powers-that-be at Columbia. *



No, the Endowment Cannot Be Used to "Fight Trump" - by Stand Columbia Society

3-29-2025

Let's put it in perspective: the federal government spends Columbia's entire endowment of \$15 billion every 20 hours. It spends Columbia's entire annual budget of over \$6 billion over the course of a work day. That's how fast it moves. There is no world where Columbia University can outspend or outmaneuver the federal government.

This narrative is coming from people who, at best, are naively optimistic. At worst, they're chest-beating chickenhawks eager to volunteer other people's careers, funding, and futures for their riskless and performative moral grandstanding.

Case in point: The American Prospect recently published a piece titled "Columbia's Capitulation, and Wesleyan's Pushback". The President of Wesleyan University, Dr. Michael Roth, gravely intoned that he understood that Wesleyan was also exposed to the same federal funding threats. "Of course, I think about that. And then I think that's the classic collaborationist dilemma, right?" Profile in courage? Not quite. Wesleyan gets \$9 million a year in federal research grants. Columbia gets \$1.3 billion, nearly 150 times more. There are individual faculty members at Columbia whose grant portfolios are larger than all of Wesleyan University.

On July 11, 1804, Princeton alumnus (and seditious traitor) Aaron Burr infamously shot and killed Columbia alumnus Alexander Hamilton. Two hundred and twenty-one years later, the President of Princeton, Dr. Christopher Eisgruber, urged us to "speak up and litigate forcefully", essentially volunteer to be shot, presumably to protect Princeton. History does not repeat, but it sometimes rhymes.

This post will do what too few have done: think through what would actually happen if Columbia decided to litigate its way out of the government's threats, and thoroughly debunk this piece of disinformation.

What is an Endowment?

Let's start with the basics. An endowment is not a pile of gold coins that sits in some subterranean vault guarded by a three-headed dog or possibly Smaug the Dragon. It's not a magical reservoir of cash. It is not Scrooge McDuck's money bin.

Columbia's endowment is worth approximately \$14.8 billion as of June 30, 2024, and is made up of more than 6,450 distinct funds, most of which are restricted for a specific purpose. The most well-known ones are endowed chairs, where the professor's salary, benefits, and sometimes research are funded by the proceeds of that endowment. An endowed chair in say, physics, usually cannot be "reallocated" to pay for funding shortfalls in mathematics or legal defense funds or PR campaigns.

We say "usually" because there are exceptions. To use an endowment for another purpose requires either the donor's explicit consent or a court process involving the New York State Attorney General. Restrictions are serious—there have been cases when non-profits have skirted donor intent and have been sued by their donors, sometimes resulting in "clawbacks" of funds. Here's one involving Princeton.

Approximately \$4.8 billion of the \$14.8 billion headline number are unrestricted funds, which means they are not dedicated for a specific purpose. But even those are governed by university policies and laws around prudent use of institutional funds and fiduciary responsibilities. The legal bar for using an endowment's principal—a process known as "decapitalization"—is so high (and also requires donor permission) that we did not do it in the financial crisis of 2008 or even during COVID in 2020.

Two professors recently volunteered themselves and their colleagues for a "10 percent pay cut" to cross-subsidize losses while launching a legal battle against the Trump administration. That's a meaningless gesture, although we suppose it sounds brave. A professor cannot decapitalize his or her own endowed chair. He or she certainly can't decapitalize someone else's, and definitely cannot decapitalize funds for financial aid and other endowed purposes. This is moral signaling with Monopoly money.

Why the Endowment Can't Be Used to "Fight Trump"

Let's be generous and assume we even wanted to use Columbia's endowment as a war chest. What would that look like? Well, we have a few problems.

First, the endowment is not liquid. As of June 30, 2024, about \$4.8 billion of Columbia's endowment is unrestricted. However, that is not liquid. Only 3% are in cash or bonds. The rest are in private equity, global (public) equities, venture capital, hedge funds, and real estate. The global secondary market for stakes in private funds is approximately \$87 billion per year, and so liquidating Columbia's unrestricted portfolio is a material—and potentially market-moving—component of that. That means we will likely take a "haircut" of up to 10% if we were to attempt

- ▶ 2015 (765)
- ▶ 2014 (704)
- ▶ 2013 (776)
- ▶ 2012 (839)
- ▶ 2011 (738)
- ▶ 2010 (431)
- ▶ 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

to turn that volume of assets into cash on short notice—and that is at the end of a sale process that may take months. (10% is generous and assumes high-quality buyout funds; if Columbia is exposed to venture capital or exotic financial instruments, the discount would be even more punitive.) So \$4.8 billion in private assets would turn into \$4.3 billion in cash.

Second, we have to reserve cash for working capital. Like many universities, Columbia has a mismatched working capital cycle. Specifically, Columbia takes, on average, 55 days to collect cash and 28 days to pay cash. This makes sense (and is common among universities) because government grants, tuition, and insurance reimbursements might take months to materialize, but payroll must happen every few weeks.

What this means is that Columbia must keep approximately one month's worth of cash on hand to fund this mismatched cycle, which is over \$500 million in 2024. \$4.3 billion would then become \$3.8 billion.

	2024	2023		2024	2023
Accounts payables	508,922	329,007	Accounts receivables	805,204	741,711
Average	418,965		Average	773,458	
Instruction & admin	2,415,561		Patient care revenue	1,783,696	
Patient care expense	1,555,432		Tuition and fees	1,514,596	
Research	951,340		Gov't grants	1,329,009	
O&M of plant	367,001		Other research / educational activities	282,091	
Aux enterprises	228,339		Aux enterprises	247,356	
Total "COGS"	5,517,673		Total "Operating" Revenues	5,136,748	
Days Payables Outstanding	27.7		Days Receivables Outstanding	55.0	
Excluded			Excluded		
Institutional support	386,280		Investment income	813,411	
Depreciation	327,635		Private gifts	653,567	
Interest	67,325				

Third, we'd buy less than two years. As we have discussed previously, the federal government gives Columbia nearly \$2 billion per year in financial assistance between federal grants (\$1.3 billion), Medicare and Medicaid (at least \$350 million, likely more), and federal student aid (\$318 million). If we torch the entire unrestricted endowment, which dates back nearly three centuries, we would buy less than two years to "fight Trump".

Line item	\$ in thousands
Endowment (mark-to-market June 30, 2024)	14,842,492
Unrestricted endowment	4,778,879
(Less) Liquidity discount	10%
Liquidation value	4,300,991
(Less) 30 days cash for working capital	524,909
Usable decapitalized endowment	3,776,082
Federal research grants	1,329,009
Medicare and Medicaid	349,120
Federal student financial assistance	318,000
Annual federal assistance (cash)	1,996,129
Years of cash runway	1.89

Fourth, the federal government can continue to inflict damage on us. We have not touched on another important aspect. As we observed last November, the federal government has multiple attack vectors against Columbia. For example, the Trump administration might use student visas. Axios reported earlier this

week that the Trump administration might declare entire institutions ineligible for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, which is the heart of U.S. visa issuance for international students. This is a unilateral executive branch decision. International students pay ~\$800 million in tuition per year to Columbia because they are (almost) all full-freight paying students with fairly few eligible for financial aid. If we cannot easily replace 14,000 international students with American students, our cash runway will only fall further. And let's not forget the lurking specter of an endowment tax.

Fifth, it's simply not enough. This cash runway is not even enough time to get to the midterms, much less the rest of the Trump administration. So, what exactly is the plan here? Burn the ship to light the sky?

OK, Let's Fight Trump Anyway. How Would That Work?

Let's say we do it anyway. Columbia decapitalizes the endowment, burns through cash reserves, and prepares to fight the federal government. What would it take for that strategy to succeed?

Well, you'd have to believe in a sequence of highly optimistic, borderline fantastical outcomes. Here's what that roadmap looks like:

Legal Victory at Every Level. Columbia would need to challenge federal funding cuts in court—and win at every stage. That means success not just in initial rulings, but also through appeals, all the way to the Supreme Court. No missteps, no setbacks, no unfavorable decisions. And all done quickly, before we run out of cash.

No Retaliation from the Executive Branch. You'd also have to believe that, once litigation begins, the administration wouldn't respond with further cuts. Right now, \$430 million is explicitly at risk. But Columbia receives close to \$2 billion annually in federal support—through grants, healthcare reimbursements, and student aid. The full spectrum of federal financial support (worth over \$5 billion over multiple years) could be next, as the government has already signalled.

Congress Won't Step In. Even if Columbia wins in court, you'd have to believe that a GOP-controlled Congress wouldn't simply rewrite the rules—by removing Columbia from future federal appropriations altogether. If Congress includes an anti-Columbia provision in federal appropriations, it's virtually impossible to reverse it until Columbia allies are in the majority of both houses of Congress and control the White House.

Our Best Faculty Won't Leave. Every university will try to poach our best faculty. That's how rival law firms responded to Paul Weiss. (From the NYT: "We waited for firms to support us in the wake of the president's executive order," Paul Weiss's chairman, Brad Karp, wrote in an

email to the firm on Sunday. "Disappointingly, far from support, we learned that certain other firms were seeking to exploit our vulnerabilities by aggressively soliciting our clients and recruiting our attorneys.") Faculty who want to preserve their research portfolios will take their ideas, staff, students and labs elsewhere. It happened after 1968. It can happen again.

A Decade of Favorable Elections. You'd also need to count on the next two to three election cycles—midterms and presidential contests—to go Columbia's way. Our cash reserves might give us less than two years of runway. Sustaining this battle would require consistent political wins for a decade or more.

A Surge in Alumni Giving. Finally, you'd need to believe that alumni donations would not only hold steady, but skyrocket to fund the fight. Last year, Columbia raised \$653 million in gifts, including one-time mega-gifts. Are we supposed to believe that openly dedicating the university to "fighting Trump" will magically triple those numbers (necessary to backfill the \$2 billion hole)—despite the risk of alienating large segments of our base?

If even one of those goes sideways, then it's game over. Professor Charlie Eaton, an economic sociologist at UC Merced, missed every single one of these points in his chest-beating NYT op-ed "\$15 Billion Is Enough to Fight a President." His principled and courageous willingness to fight to the last Columbia professor and the last dollar of Columbia's endowment is a sight to behold.

And what exactly are we dying on the hill for? The right of students to take over University buildings? The right to kidnap and injure staff? The right to act as a distribution arm of the "Hamas Media Office"? This is the wrong hill to die on. None of this is broadly supported by the American public, to whom Columbia is not just a beneficiary but a steward of taxpayer money. And they're not causes that justify permanent institutional damage.

This Is Really, Really, Really Stupid

To recap: this idea isn't bold. It isn't radical. It's not even a protest. It's financial malpractice. It's strategic lunacy. And it's all being driven by people who think they won't lose their research labs (if they even have them), retirement and tuition benefits, health insurance, housing, or jobs when this fantasy inevitably implodes.

The armchair warriors instructing us to fight Trump? Volunteer your own institutions instead. Don't demand that Columbia—or its students, faculty, or staff—burn their futures for your moment of performative glory. Our mission is important: if you are not comfortable doing your part to teach the next generation, conduct cutting-edge research, deliver the world's best clinical care, and be a good neighbor, we would ask you to act according to your convictions and let the rest of our faculty, students and staff move forward. Columbia University is too important to the United States and the world.

In the meantime, the University has work to do. Things like rebuilding public trust, repairing the social contract with the American people, and securing its role as one of this nation's great research institutions. And that means leaving the cringe-worthy performative heroics to the Internet, where they belong.

Source: <https://standcolumbia.org/2025/03/29/issue-037-no-the-endowment-cannot-be-used-to-fight-trump/>.

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*UPDATE: In a private unsigned email to yours truly, Stand Columbia denies coordinating its analysis with Columbia.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [Columbia](#), [endowment](#), [politics](#)

Tearing Up the Waiver

Press Release, U.S. Dept. of Education

U.S. Department of Education Revokes Waivers to California and Oregon Universities Using Federal Funding to Provide Services to Illegal Immigrants

March 27, 2025

Today, the U.S. Department of Education revoked waivers to California and Oregon colleges and universities that are using federal funds to provide services to illegal aliens under the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3). The mission of the P3 Program is to allow states and localities to integrate program funding across federal agencies to improve the systems serving disconnected youth, not provide entitlements to illegal immigrants. Through P3 waivers approved during the Biden Administration, colleges and universities diverted taxpayer-funded TRIO program services meant for low-income students, first generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to illegal immigrants.



"American taxpayer dollars will no longer be used to subsidize illegal immigrants through Department of Education programs," said Acting Under Secretary James Bergeron. "The TRIO Program was designed to provide support and guidance to disadvantaged Americans as they navigate the road to and through postsecondary education. The Department will not allow the true purpose of the program to be corrupted to advance an American-last agenda."

The U.S. Department of Education sent notices to the impacted colleges and universities through the California Higher Education Collaborative and Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission today.

Background:

The Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2014 created the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3), which authorizes states to enter into pilots to use funding from across multiple federal discretionary programs to support efforts to improve the systems serving America's youth and their outcomes.

Under the Biden Administration, the Department approved a P3 waiver allowing illegal immigrants to receive TRIO Program services. The TRIO Programs are federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act designed to identify and provide additional academic and career services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.

California's waiver began in November 2022 and was set to expire in September 2026.

Oregon's waiver began in October 2023 and was set to expire in September 2027.

Source: <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-revokes-waivers-california-and-oregon-universities-using-federal-funding-provide-services-illegal-immigrants>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:    

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#)

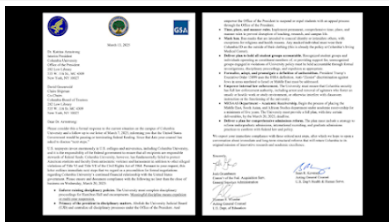
Saturday, March 29, 2025

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 8 (Aftershock)

Columbia University: **Shipman Named Acting President**

March 28, 2025

Columbia's Board of Trustees announced today that Interim President Katrina A. Armstrong is returning to lead the University's Irving Medical Center. Board of Trustees Co-Chair Claire Shipman has been appointed Acting President, effective immediately, and will serve until the Board completes its presidential search.



"Dr. Armstrong accepted the role of interim president at a time of great uncertainty for the University and worked tirelessly to promote the interests of our community," said David J. Greenwald, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Katrina has always given her heart and soul to Columbia. We appreciate her service and look forward to her continued contributions to the University," he added.

Acting President Claire Shipman said, "I assume this role with a clear understanding of the serious challenges before us and a steadfast commitment to act with urgency, integrity, and work with our faculty to advance our mission, implement needed reforms, protect our students, and uphold academic freedom and open inquiry. Columbia's new permanent president, when that individual is selected, will conduct an appropriate review of the University's leadership team and structure to ensure we are best positioned for the future."

Shipman ('86CC, MIA '94) has served as Co-Chair since 2023, and has been on the Board since 2013. She is a journalist and author who holds a graduate degree in international affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Russian Studies from Columbia College.

Source: <https://communications.news.columbia.edu/news/shipman-named-acting-president>.

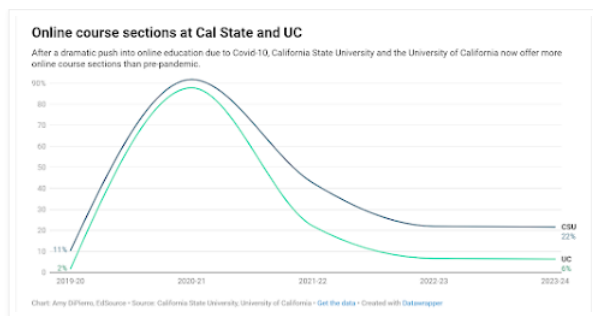
From [Wikipedia](#): Claire Shipman (born October 4, 1962) is an American television journalist and the former senior national correspondent for ABC's Good Morning America... She is also married to Jay Carney, President Barack Obama's former White House Press Secretary... Shipman, born October 4, 1962, in Washington, D.C., is the daughter of the late Christie (Armstrong) and Morgan Enlow Shipman, Professor of Law at The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law. She graduated from Worthington High School in Worthington, Ohio, in 1980. She is a 1986 graduate of Columbia College of Columbia University with a degree in Russian Studies and also earned a Master of International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs in 1994.

Full profile at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claire_Shipman.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:    

Labels: [Columbia](#), [politics](#)

2% to 6%



According to [EdSource](#), in the academic year just before the pandemic, 2% of UC course sections were online. Although the vast majority of course sections went online in the pandemic period, in the last academic year (2023-24), 6% were online. So you could say the number tripled from the pre-pandemic period. Or you could say that after the dust settled, only 6% were online.

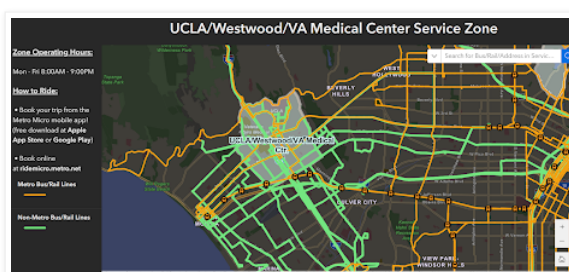
The article notes that the impact on community colleges was much greater (18% to 41%). In between was CSU, going from 11% to 22%.

Full story at <https://edsources.org/2025/at-community-colleges-online-classes-remain-popular-years-after-pandemic/728458>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [community colleges](#), [CSU](#), [online education](#), [UC](#)

Rideshare Service from UCLA area to E Line



There is a rideshare program - a van that comes on call - that will take you from UCLA/Westwood to the E Line light rail. You can download the app for calling it from the Apple or Google stores.



Alternatively: Call to book: 323.GO.METRO.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [transportation](#), [UCLA](#)

Friday, March 28, 2025

Error correction? Really?

The Academic Senate has under review proposed changes in the criteria for the hiring and promotion of librarians.* Accompanying the document on the changes is an explanation which frankly strains credibility.



We are asked to believe that in 2016, nine years ago, someone made some transcription errors which nobody noticed or

thought to fix until now. And we are asked to believe that the changes proposed now are just corrections of what was really meant. But the transcription errors go way beyond mere typos. They appear to be substantive in nature.

Below is one example of a supposed correction of one such transcription error being proposed for correction:

...In APM - 360-4(d), "carrying out research and creative activity" in support of the professional services performed in the libraries has been modified to "acquiring information and knowledge" in support of the professional services performed in the libraries. The original Librarian definition referenced "research where necessary" and the Joint Task Force's original proposed definition referenced "research in support" of the professional services performed in the libraries. However, when APM - 360 was issued in 2016, the reference to "research" was erroneously expanded to "carrying out research and creative activity" in support of the professional services performed in the libraries.

The research/creative activity mission of the University is not a subcategory under the broader category of professional library services, which is how the current policy reads. The substitution of "acquiring information and knowledge" for "carrying out research and creative activity" is intended to clarify this because the use of the word "research" in the original version of APM - 360 resulted in a misunderstanding of the intent of the word and was inadvertently expanded to include "creative activity." ...

One does not accidentally change "research in support" to "carrying out research and creative activity." And there are more such purported "accidents" in the document.

There has to be a back story here. But it isn't being told. It should be told.

Comments are due by June 17th: SystemwideAP-PolicyReviewComments@ucop.edu

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*The full document is at:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/systemwide-senate-review-apm-360-3-20-25.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:45 AM No comments: 

Labels: UC

Investigation

From Reuters:

The U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday launched investigations into Stanford University and three University of California schools to ensure they comply with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down race-conscious admissions. The 2023 ruling effectively prohibited affirmative action policies that were long used to raise the number of Black, Hispanic and other underrepresented minority students on American campuses...



In addition to Stanford, the review will cover the University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of California, Irvine...

The University of California said it has adhered to a ban on affirmative action in admissions since California voters approved one in the ballot initiative Proposition 209 in 1996...

Full story at <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-justice-dept-probing-admissions-policies-stanford-university-california-2025-03-27/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:55 AM No comments: 

Labels: diversity, politics, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UC-Irvine, UCLA

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 7 (Zoom leak)

Various newspapers such as the Wall St. Journal have referred to a mysterious "transcript" of remarks made by the interim Columbia U president in which she seemed to contradict the deal she made with the feds. Below is apparently the source of the transcript:



...The Washington Free Beacon obtained a transcript of the meeting, which seems to have been created because Columbia administrators were unable to disable the Zoom function that generates an audio transcript. The transcript itself captures administrators struggling to prevent the software from creating a transcript and then moving forward without success.

"I am unable to turn it off, for technical reasons, so we're all just going to have to understand," an unnamed administrator said at the outset. "This meeting is being transcribed. If you are the requester of this, I would ask you to turn it off."

"Yeah, that seems to be the default. I keep telling my people to stop this thing," Olinto, the provost, responded...

Source: <https://freebeacon.com/campus/what-columbia-university-president-really-told-faculty-members/>.

Moral: it's not just secret military conversations on Signal that leak out. Be careful what you Zoom!

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Columbia](#), [politics](#)

Federal Student Aid May Be Unavailable

Blog readers will recall the website problems that occurred during the Biden administration with the FAFSA form for students seeking federal aid. The ongoing dismantling of the Dept. of Education may be having the same effect. From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

...Multiple former and current staff say the department is struggling to fulfill its statutorily mandated responsibilities, from administering federal student aid to enforcing antidiscrimination laws. "They don't have the capacity to do their federally mandated work," said a former staffer of over a decade. "When they say they do, they're either lying or willfully ignorant."

Administration officials themselves seemed to realize that at least some of the positions they eliminated were, in fact, essential. Last week dozens of employees who had been laid off received emails from the department's chief human capital officer reinstating their employment.

"Effective immediately, the notice you received ... regarding Reduction in Force is rescinded," the email read, according to a screenshot shared with Inside Higher Ed and independently verified. "We are in the process of reactivating your accounts. Please report to your regular duty station."

Multiple sources at the Office of Federal Student Aid confirmed that 50 employees at the agency who were originally laid off had their RIF notices rescinded; all of them worked in the agency's tech office. A week earlier, **the website for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid—the main software responsibility of the agency—had experienced nationwide service outages, preventing students and families from applying for aid...**

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/03/25/education-department-staff-struggle-after-mass>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [politics](#)

Thursday, March 27, 2025

1%

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):

Winning admission into the University of California's most competitive majors — including computer science, engineering and business — is about as likely as hitting a home run your first time at bat. Yet even those subjects are not the hardest to get into. That honor belongs to nursing, for which you might have to hit two home runs. In a row.

Just 1% of the nearly 6,000 yearly applicants to UC's undergraduate nursing programs, at UCLA and UC Irvine, are permitted to walk through the door...

By 2030, with every baby boomer locked into old age, the need for nurses will only skyrocket, he said. So what's stopping California's universities from welcoming every applicant? At UC Irvine and UCLA — which together admitted 118 nursing students out of 11,776 who applied in 2023, the most recent data available — the answer is money.

UC Irvine's engineering school, for example, spends less than \$10,000 a year to educate each student. The nursing school spends at least twice that amount... A lecture hall packed with engineering students needs but one professor. But in nursing, where the stakes are about patient survival, every group of 10 students needs a single, attentive instructor. Also expensive: computerized mannequins, which reside in hospital simulation rooms and suffer sudden heart attacks and massive strokes. These cost a couple hundred thousand dollars each...



Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/college-admissions/article/uc-csu-nursing-major-acceptance-rate-20230860.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [admissions](#), [health care](#), [UC Irvine](#), [UCLA](#)

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 6 (ambiguity)

The [Wall St. Journal](#) published a report based on a transcript of a meeting at Columbia between Interim President Armstrong and faculty. In it, she both argues that she had no real choice but to agree and also downplays some of the conditions in the resolution agreement she had agreed to with federal agencies:



"The ability of the federal administration to leverage other forms of federal funding in an immediate fashion is really potentially devastating to our students in particular," Armstrong said, according to a transcript of the meetings reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. "I think it is a really critical risk for us to understand."

Lawyers for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights are scheduled to visit campus and question faculty this week about potential violations of federal civil rights laws, people familiar with the matter said.

...In the weekend talks, Armstrong told the faculty Columbia hasn't taken any legal options off the table. In a statement Monday, the federal task force that negotiated the agreement with Columbia said the school's initial steps were positive but "they must continue to show that they are serious."

...Medical and research faculty, who are most affected by federal cuts, are angry they are bearing most of the financial brunt for the political activism of more liberal co-workers in arts and humanities. Many also believe Columbia hasn't adequately protected Jewish students. Arts and social sciences professors worry more about ceding independence to Trump, suffering reputational damage and not yielding to what they perceive as an authoritarian erosion of civil liberties. Some criticized Armstrong for not taking a harder line with President Trump.

...One professor said the situation wasn't just a crisis for Columbia but was "the biggest crisis since the founding of the republic," according to a transcript. He said he found it puzzling that Armstrong and fellow university leaders hadn't banded together to issue a unified statement.

...In the conversations with faculty, Armstrong also downplayed the changes agreed to with the Trump team. One issue Armstrong highlighted was the mask policy. While Columbia's letter to the Trump team agreed to ban masks that conceal identity during unauthorized protests, Armstrong told faculty there was no mask ban.

...Several faculty complained the administration was engaged in strategic ambiguity by sending mixed signals to different constituencies—one for the public and one for faculty.

...Among Trump's demands was placing Columbia's department of Middle East Studies in receivership—meaning a chair from outside the department oversees decisions such as faculty hiring and curricula. Columbia's agreement with Trump pledged to appoint a senior vice provost to "ensure the educational offerings are comprehensive and balanced." Over the weekend, Armstrong and her team said that appointment wouldn't impact how the department operates...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/columbia-trump-faculty-meetings-38a65ff>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [Columbia](#), [politics](#)

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Impending Strike News: Another One Coming



From the [Daily Bruin](#): Two UC unions representing nearly 60,000 workers called on their members to strike across the University on April 1.

The University Professional and Technical Employees-Communications Workers of America 9119, which represents research and technical workers, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299, which represents service, patient care and skilled crafts workers, announced the strike Friday. This is the third time the

two unions will strike in over four months in response to alleged unfair labor practices by the University. AFSCME Local 3299 said it was striking in solidarity with UPTC-CWA 9119 in a Friday Instagram post. AFSCME Local 3299 began contract negotiations in January 2024 – five

months before UPTE-CWA 9119 – and neither union has reached a contract agreement with the UC...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/03/21/upte-cwa-9119-afscme-local-3299-announce-third-strike-in-over-4-months-across-uc>.

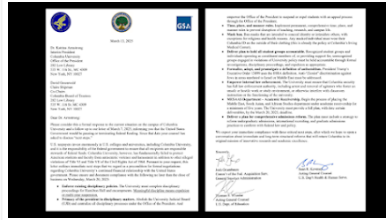
Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [strikes](#), [UC](#)

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 5 (fallout)

From the [Harvard Crimson](#):

Harvard President Alan M. Garber '76 abruptly canceled a planned spring break trip to India last week as American universities nervously eyed Columbia's response to a \$400 million ultimatum from the Trump administration...



University spokesperson Jason A. Newton declined to comment on why Garber's trip was canceled or how the University president had spent his spring break instead. According to Newton, the trip to India would be rescheduled...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/3/24/garber-cancels-india-trip/>.

From [The Dartmouth](#):

Former Republican National Committee chief counsel Matthew Raymer '03 will serve as the College's next general counsel and senior vice president starting March 17. Raymer, who has publicly defended President Donald Trump's push to redefine the scope of birthright citizenship, will oversee the Office of Visa and Immigration Services and serve on College President Sian Leah Beilock's leadership team...

Raymer will advise the Board of Trustees, faculty and administration on legal and strategic matters, Dartmouth News wrote in a release...

The College's announcement comes as the Trump administration continues to rework federal education policy and appropriations. Yesterday, for example, Trump signed an executive order aimed at dismantling the federal Department of Education. Earlier this month, the administration canceled \$400 million of funding for Columbia for failing "to protect American students and faculty from antisemitic violence and harassment," according to a letter from the administration. On Jan. 24, Raymer published an op-ed in *The Federalist* titled "Trump Is Right About Birthright Citizenship," in which he supported Trump's push to revoke birthright citizenship for children of undocumented immigrants...

Full story at <https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2025/03/wang-raymer-appointment>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments: 

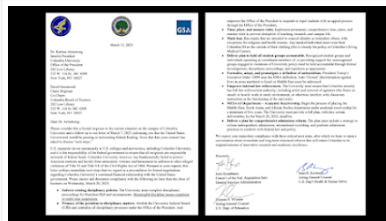
Labels: [Columbia](#), [Dartmouth](#), [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 4 (negotiations)

From the [Columbia Daily Spectator](#):

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said on Sunday that Columbia is "on the right track" to restore \$400 million canceled by the Trump administration earlier this month in an interview with CNN's Dana Bash on "State of the Union."



The signal of approval comes two days after Columbia acquiesced to several of the federal government's nine demands for the University, which it called a "precondition for formal negotiations" about Columbia's federal funding in a March 13 letter to interim University President Katrina Armstrong...

In the interview with Bash, McMahon said she has had "such great conversations" with Armstrong and that the two have exchanged personal phone numbers. "When she and I met, she knew that this was her responsibility, to make sure that children on her campus were safe," McMahon said. "She wanted to make sure there was no discrimination of any kind. She wanted to address any systemic issues that were identified relative to the antisemitism on campus."

McMahon did not confirm that the canceled grants and contracts would be restored to Columbia, but she did say that "they have worked very hard in a very short period of time."

"I believe that they are on the right track so that we can now move forward," McMahon added...

Full story at <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2025/03/23/columbia-on-right-track-toward-final-negotiations-to-restore-canceled-federal-funds-mcmahon-says/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [Columbia](#), [politics](#)

Senate Controversies Continue



The Assembly of the systemwide Academic Senate will be meeting via Zoom this afternoon in a special meeting called by petition:

The main issue is a systemwide conversion from the three-quarter system to a two-semester system. A special meeting will occur tomorrow on that issue and on the timing of administrative pay adjustments:

Salary Adjustments for Administrators (2:10 - 2:30) [ACTION]

The Assembly is asked to vote on this proposed motion:

"The Academic Senate recommends that all University of California administrators at the Dean level and above receive salary range adjustments at the same time as the regular faculty."

UC Systemwide Academic Calendar (2:30 - 3:30) [ACTION]

1. "Deliberate on the good faith of the consultation process and decision-making regarding the 'common semester calendar' when a higher administrator in one of the eight campuses on a quarter system has told multiple faculty members that it is a 'fait accompli as it lowers cost.'"

The Assembly is asked to vote on this proposed motion:

2. "[A]llow each Division to vote and decide whether to adopt the 'common semester calendar' for their specific campus or remain on a quarter system."

Senate members may attend by registering at:

<https://ucop.zoom.us/join/register/Nh3jgYSHRjOXtRMd5eK3AA#/registration>

Only Assembly members can vote.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:    

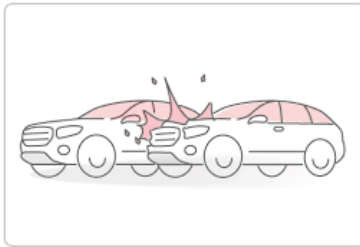
Labels: [faculty pay](#), [UC](#)

Monday, March 24, 2025

Will we be side swiped by a San Francisco scandal?

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):
San Francisco no longer wants to do business with a nonprofit that received lucrative city contracts from a disgraced former department head who previously worked for the organization and lived with its executive director.

City Attorney David Chiu said in a statement that his office has temporarily suspended the nonprofit, Collective Impact, from receiving city funding and will seek to prohibit the organization from getting city contracts for as long as five years. The decision is the result of a long-running city investigation into the nonprofit and its ties to former Human Rights Commission Director Sheryl Davis.



*"Collective Impact has paid thousands of dollars to support Davis' personal ventures, her travel, and her son's graduate school education," the city attorney's office wrote in a legal filing against the nonprofit... The city attorney's office said that Collective Impact submitted improper claims for reimbursement from the city, including more than \$19,000 to pay Davis' son's tuition to attend graduate school at the **University of California, Los Angeles**... Asked about the \$19,000 tuition payment for Davis' son, [a spokesperson] said Davis' son, Henry Davis, was part of Collective Impact for the last 13 years, and that he applied to the nonprofit's college financial assistance program "like everyone else" and he did not receive special treatment. The city's proceedings say the program limits tuition support to \$5,000 per year...*

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/s-f-suspends-nonprofit-paid-questionable-expenses-20232190.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [politics](#), [tuition](#), [UCLA](#)

Watch the Regents Meeting of March 19, 2025



We're catching up with last week's Regents meetings, specifically the meeting of March 19. We have already covered March 18.*

At the opening public comments session, there was a series of remarks that were pro-Israel and/or against antisemitism and some opposing comments. Other issues included staff pay, sexual violence, funding for undocumented students, basic needs, alternatives to CalFresh for undocumented students experimental fellowships,

DEI issues, staff job loss, staff flexible work schedules, AFSCME pay issues, disabled masking needs, childcare and parental needs, nurse bargaining issues, and anti-abortion. After a disturbance involving bargaining issues, the room was cleared.

Among the remarks made when the meeting resumed were those of UC president Drake who noted that UC-Merced had achieved R1 status. However, most of his remarks were focused on problems in Sacramento with UC's budget and problems in DC with regard to research funding and Medicare-Medicaid funding. He talked about a legal response (not clear what that is) and the installation of Time-Place-Manner rules on UC campuses.

The Regents spent a lot of time in closed session, presumably dealing with the issues Drake outlined. In fact, they spent so much time that the rest of the March 19 program was sufficiently delayed so that one scheduled session had to be delayed until the next day. One guesses that the decision to drop required required DEI statements for hiring and advancement of faculty was made in the closed session, although there was no announcement in the meeting.

At Finance and Capital Strategies, the committee approved a hospital replacement building at UC-San Diego, student housing at Berkeley, a faculty and staff housing project at Santa Barbara, and a classroom and office building at Merced. The committee reviewed a proposal for a Berkeley Venture Capital Fund, initially to be financed by gifts. A student regent proposal to have a student on the board of the Fund was more or less squelched without a vote. There were some concerns about whether time that UC employees put into the Fund would be paid for by the Fund. Again, assurances were made - but without a specific vote. It was noted that the Fund could invest in projects related to any UC, not just Berkeley.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee discussed support for transfer students and disabled students. The latter topic evolved from a situation at Berkeley in which a disabled student was unable to evacuate from a building in an emergency situation. The Committee then turned to a segment on entrepreneurship and commercialization. Examples were provided of a system for supporting coral reefs and a treatment for bladder cancer.

The Governance Committee swiftly approved compensation for a football coach at Berkeley and an executive pay matter (although the dollar amounts entailed were somehow not mentioned), some procedural changes regarding the Nominations Committee, stipends for expert advisors to the Health Services Committee, and the allowing of across-the-board "cost of living" adjustments for managerial employees without specific regental approval. There was a change in future meeting dates due to what one suspects was a scheduling screw up regarding venue availability. Finally, in a joint session with Health Services, four positions in the health sector were combined into two and the resulting two were elevated into the senior management group. This combination and elevation was said to save money on net.

A planned session of Public Engagement and Development was postponed to the next day.

As always, we preserve Regents meetings indefinitely since the Regents have no policy on video retention. You can see the sessions described above at the links below:

The general webpage link is: <https://archive.org/details/1-board-3-18-2025> (Ignore the 18 - The link is for Mar. 19)

The Board meeting is at <https://ia600202.us.archive.org/0/items/1-board-3-18-2025/1-Board%203-19-2025.mp4>.

Academic and Student Affairs is at <https://ia600202.us.archive.org/0/items/1-board-3-18-2025/2-Academic%20and%20Student%20Affairs%20Committee%203-19-2025.mp4>.

Finance & Capital Strategies is at <https://ia600202.us.archive.org/0/items/1-board-3-18-2025/1-Board%203-19-2025.mp4>.

Governance (& Joint with Health Services) is at <https://ia600202.us.archive.org/0/items/1-board-3-18-2025/4-Governance%20Committee%2C%20Joint%20Meeting%20Health%20Services%20and%20Governance%20Committees%203-19-2025.mp4>.

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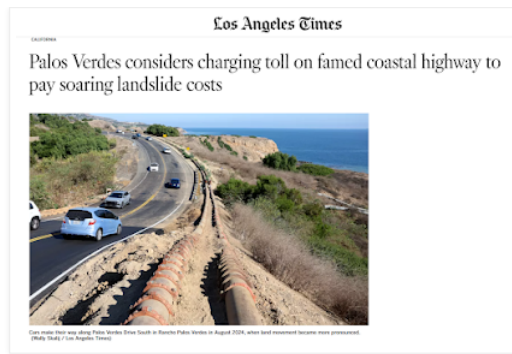
*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/03/watch-regents-meeting-of-march-18-2025.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, diversity, Drake, politics, State Budget, UC Regents, UC-Berkeley, UC-Merced, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Just a reminder



Perhaps you saw the recent article in the [LA Times](#) about the shifting landscape down in Palos Verdes, not far from the campus UCLA bought from a defunct Catholic college for a cool \$80 million.* Nobody seems to know yet what to do with it. As we have pointed out, transportation between Westwood and Palos Verdes is a (big) problem. And nobody has said anything about the issue below, which we from time to time point out:



I know. It's unpleasant to think about. But still...

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*<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-21/palos-verdes-considers-toll-road>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UCLA](#)

The Hills to Die On Keep Coming...

...although in the latest legal development, there could be casualties on both sides. A case has been filed in which the plaintiffs are mainly those injured when the encampment last spring was attacked by outside vigilantes.* Most were in the encampment; one was a [Daily Bruin](#) reporter covering the event.



The case was posted in a way that blocked downloading but yours truly managed to get around the block. You can find it at:

<https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/People%20v%20UCLA%203-2025.pdf>.

This is a case that is messy for both sides. Creating the encampment violated campus rules. You can't block public access, control public access, block doorways, vandalize walls, etc., without violating university rules and laws. The UCLA police chief at the time - later made a scapegoat - apparently advised immediately dismantling the encampment. Had that occurred, the subsequent events described in the lawsuit would not have occurred. UCLA apparently told its police to stay away. And when vigilantes arrived in the void of safety thus created, there was no police response for an extended period. So UCLA has culpability, but some of that culpability is for not preventing the plaintiffs from doing what they did.

Were the case to proceed to trial, a lot of information would come out about what the university did (and didn't) do, but also about what the plaintiffs did. There would be a process of discovery. Documents would be obtained. Testimony would be taken. Many of the plaintiffs are anonymous, although how they would remain so in an actual discovery process and trial is unclear. Presumably, they could be asked to testify and be questioned by opposing counsel. This is a be-careful-what-you-wish-for case for the plaintiffs.

One suspects there would be a lot of dirty laundry from both sides hanging in Royce Quad before the case ended, if it ever really went to trial. So yours truly guesses it won't. But how that occurs is unclear.

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*<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-21/demonstrators-sue-ucla-over-handling-of-pro-palestinian-protests>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Watch the Regents Meeting of March 18, 2025

The first day of the Regents meetings at UCLA - March 18 - consisted of sessions of the Investments Committee and the Health Services Committee.

At the Investments Committee, we have already posted about CIO Jagdeep Bachhar's statement at the end that he was looking at reinvestment in fossil fuels, given the changed policy coming from Washington, DC.* However, the meeting began with public comments. Several speakers called for anti-Israel divestment.

Representatives of UPTe - which recently carried out a systemwide strike - spoke about staffing and other labor issues. Other topics included funding for undocumented students, funding for disabled students, Cantonese language instruction, and a UCLA sexual abuse scandal at a daycare center.**



CIO Bachhar then provided updated data through mid-March on returns of the various portfolios. The pension fund earned 4.1% over the previous year and the endowment earned 4.5%. As we noted in a prior post, documentation provided to the Committee indicated that the two portfolios had underperformed their benchmarks over 10 years and 5 years respectively.*** However, members of the Committee did not raise this issue or ask for any discussion of it.

Bachhar indicated that he thought that investments abroad were looking more attractive than in the past. Regent Makarechian pushed investment in tech stocks, but Bachhar pointed to the danger of stock picking. There was a lot of discussion of the turmoil coming out of Washington but no conclusions - other than the above-mentioned reconsideration of fossil fuels.

The Health Services Committee heard a discussion of maternal care with an emphasis on the high mortality rate of Black pregnant women compared with the general population. It was noted that lack of prenatal care was associated with high-risk pregnancies as conditions that contributed to the risk were not treated.

The Committee then turned to student health care systems. It was noted that these systems operate differently on each campus and can have complicated governance. Economic viability is becoming a concern. Students are going to emergency rooms, adding to costs. Money is left on the table because third-party payers (insurance companies) are not being billed. The chair of the Committee, Regent Sures, pushed for third-party billing, integration with campus health centers for those campuses with such centers, and obtaining funding that is apparently available for mental health services from counties.

Finally, with time running out, a segment on use of masks to reduce infection was postponed.

As always, we preserve recordings of Regents meeting since the Regents have no policy on duration of retention. You can see the March 18th program at the links below:

General website: <https://archive.org/details/2-health-services-committee-3-18-2025>

Investments: <https://ia601202.us.archive.org/18/items/2-health-services-committee-3-18-2025/1-Investments%20Committee%203-18-2025.mp4>

Health: <https://ia601202.us.archive.org/18/items/2-health-services-committee-3-18-2025/2-Health%20Services%20Committee%203-18-2025.mp4>

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/03/reversal-of-divestment-in-fossil-fuels.html>.

**<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-02-22/teacher-at-ucla-child-care-center-arrested-on-suspicion-of-child-sex-abuse>.

***<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/03/were-waiting-for-explanation.html>.

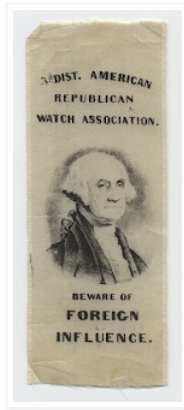
Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [health care](#), [UC Regents](#), [UCLA](#)

Beware!

From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

The Trump administration has sent questionnaires to U.S.-funded Canadian and Australian researchers asking whether their research is a "DEI project," whether it defends against "gender ideology" and whether it reinforces "U.S. sovereignty," according to organizations in those countries...



[Examples]

"Can you confirm that your organization does not work with entities associated with communist, socialist, or totalitarian parties, or any party that espouses anti-American beliefs?" ...

"Does this project reinforce U.S. sovereignty by limiting reliance on international organizations or global governance structures (e.g., UN, WHO)?" ...

"What impact does this project have on protecting religious minorities, promoting religious freedom, and combatting Christian prosecution [sic]?"

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/03/20/trump-admin-questions-canadian-australian-researchers>.

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Note: Image above from:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Republican_Party_%281843

%29.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#)

Friday, March 21, 2025

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 3 (Columbia accepts)



From the [NY Times](#):

Columbia University agreed on Friday to overhaul its protest policies, security practices and Middle Eastern studies department in a remarkable concession to the Trump administration, which has refused to consider restoring \$400 million in federal funds without major changes...

Columbia, facing the loss of government grants and contracts over what the administration said was a systemic failure to protect students and faculty members "from antisemitic violence and harassment," opted to yield to many of the administration's most substantial demands. The university said it had agreed to hire a new internal security force of 36 "special officers" who will be empowered to remove people from campus or arrest them. The wearing of face masks on campus will also be banned for the purpose of concealing identity during disruptions, with exceptions for religious and health reasons.

Columbia will also adopt a formal definition of antisemitism, something many universities have shied away from even as they, like Columbia, faced pressure to do so amid protests on their campuses over the war in Gaza. Under the working definition, antisemitism could include "targeting Jews or Israelis for violence or celebrating violence against them" or "certain double standards applied to Israel," among other issues. Taken together, the administration's plan — issued in an unsigned, four-page letter — reflected a stunning level of deference to the Trump administration from a top private research university...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/21/nyregion/columbia-response-trump-demands.html>.

[From Columbia \(acceptance document\):](#)

Advancing Our Work to Combat Discrimination, Harassment, and Antisemitism at Columbia

Columbia University has, throughout its storied history, faced many challenges and obstacles. We have worked hard to address the legitimate concerns raised both from within and without our Columbia community, including by our regulators, with respect to the discrimination, harassment, and antisemitic acts our Jewish community has faced in the wake of October 7, 2023. We are proud to share key parts of our comprehensive strategy to make our campus safer, more welcoming, and respectful of the rights of all. Columbia is announcing several additional actions as part of that effort. They include:

Implementing Our Rules and Policies

Application of consistent, rigorous, and effective disciplinary actions for violations of University Rules. Students who violated our rules during Columbia's first encampment or at Hamilton Hall have been suspended, expelled, or had their degrees temporarily revoked. Disciplinary proceedings against other encampment participants are ongoing. Columbia is committed to

rigorous and impartial enforcement of its rules and antidiscrimination policies to ensure a safe campus environment and continuation of all academic functions.

Improvements to our disciplinary processes, including the University Judicial Board ("UJB"). The University understands the critical importance of the effectiveness and impartiality of our disciplinary processes. To achieve that goal, the UJB will be situated within and overseen by the Office of the Provost, who reports to the President of Columbia. Given the risk faced by participants in this process, each UJB five-member panel will be restricted to faculty and administrators only. All panel members will undergo a rigorous vetting and conflict review process to ensure objectivity, impartiality, and commitment to following and enforcing our community's rules and policies. The Provost will have final approval of all panel members and appellate Deans. Final determination of appeals of disciplinary decisions will remain with the President.

Clarification of time, place, and manner restrictions.

We support free speech. Freedom of expression is what enables the rigorous debate and free inquiry on which our academic mission depends. But demonstrations and other protest activities that occur inside academic buildings and places where academic activities take place present a direct impediment to maintaining our core academic mission. Based upon the experience of peer schools, Columbia is clarifying that such protests in academic buildings, and other places necessary for the conduct of University activities, are generally not acceptable under the Rules of University Conduct because of the likelihood of disrupting academic activities. All demonstration activity is subject to the University's anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

Identification of individuals participating in demonstrations.

All individuals who engage in protests or demonstrations, including those who wear face masks or face coverings, must, when asked, present their University identification to the satisfaction of a University Delegate or Public Safety officer. Individuals who fail to comply with these policies will be subject to discipline, being escorted off campus, and detention for trespass where appropriate.

Addressing risk of masked individuals creating disruption.

Public safety has determined that face masks or face coverings are not allowed for the purpose of concealing one's identity in the commission of violations of University policies or state, municipal, or federal laws. We have had important instances in the recent past where individuals unaffiliated with the University have caused significant disruptions on our campus. Face masks or face coverings are always allowed for religious or medical reasons.

Expansion of public safety personnel with new training and staff.

The University has hired 36 special officers who will have the ability to remove individuals from campus and/or arrest them when appropriate. Those individuals are near completion of their training and credentialing under New York law to work on our campus. We will continue to assess the necessary size of this force to achieve our goals. The University has a longstanding relationship with the NYPD. While we train and credential our internal security force, we will continue to rely on our relationship with the NYPD to provide additional security assistance when needed.

Oversight and support of student groups.

Columbia's Office of Institutional Equity ("OIE") has promulgated a policy and processes for discipline of all student groups that stems from discriminatory conduct. OIE has the ability to sanction these groups, including to defund, suspend, or derecognize. In addition, in the next few weeks, the Office for University Life will announce a sanction policy for violations of University policy unrelated to claims of discrimination with sanctions for registered student groups. Both the existing OIE policy and the new policy will permit sanctions from defunding, suspension, to derecognition.

Continued compliance with legal obligations.

As a global leader in research and education, Columbia is subject to a variety of legal regulations governing our activities. These range from Education Department anti-discrimination rules, to student-visa and immigration laws, to HHS rules of our medical school and hospital services, and countless others. In all that we do, we are committed to full compliance with these other federal and state laws that govern Columbia, while safeguarding constitutional protections.

Addressing Discrimination and Harassment

Implementation of effective antidiscrimination policies.

The new Office of Institutional Equity substantially revised the University's antidiscrimination and discriminatory harassment policy for students and groups, including the ability to sanction groups, (i.e. defund, suspend, or derecognize). The University's approach and relevant policies will incorporate the definition of antisemitism recommended by Columbia's Antisemitism Taskforce in August 2024.

Requirement of University-wide Title VI training.

The University will continue to require its community to complete training on Title VI, including Columbia's commitment to protecting fairness and equal opportunity for all on campus. To date, 32,243 faculty/staff, contractors and other affiliates have completed this mandatory Title VI training. On February 13, 2025, all students were assigned a mandatory training module on the Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment Policy and Procedures for Students and Student Groups. To date, 5,232 students have completed the mandatory training, which is due by March 24, 2025.

Advancing Knowledge and Understanding

Appointment of new Senior Vice Provost. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are appointing a new Senior Vice Provost this week with a focus on promoting excellence in Regional Studies. As part of this portfolio, the Senior Vice Provost, acting with the authority of the Provost Office, will conduct a thorough review of the portfolio of programs in regional areas across the University, starting immediately with the Middle East. This review will include the Center for Palestine Studies; the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies; Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; the Middle East Institute; the Tel Aviv and Amman global hubs; the School of International and Public Affairs Middle East Policy major; and other University programs focused on the Middle East (together, the "Middle East Programs"). In this role, the Senior Vice Provost will:

- (1) review the educational programs to ensure the educational offerings are comprehensive and balanced;
- (2) review all aspects of leadership and curriculum;
- (3) steward the creation of new programs to address the full range of fields;

- (4) create a standard review process for the hiring of non-tenured faculty across the University, partnering with the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and the schools;
- (5) review the processes for approving curricular changes;
- (6) following academic procedures, make recommendations to the President and Provost about any necessary changes, academic restructuring, or investments that will ensure academic excellence and complementarity across all programs in the given academic areas.

Expansion of intellectual diversity among faculty.

Faculty searches have begun and will be expanded to ensure intellectual diversity across our course offerings and scholarship. As part of this effort the University will appoint new faculty members with joint positions in both the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies and the departments of Economics, Political Science, and School for International and Public Affairs ("SIPA"). These faculty members will contribute to a robust and intellectually diverse academic environment, reinforcing the University's commitment to excellence and fairness in Middle East studies.

Engaging Our Community and Advancing Our Mission

Review our admissions procedures to ensure they reflect best practices.

Our current admission processes comply with existing law. Columbia has and will continue to engage outside academic experts to review our admissions practices across all of our many schools for students from the United States and around the world, and make recommendations to the President and Provost about how to improve them and ensure unbiased admission processes.

As consistent with our practice when faced with concerns over discrimination against a particular group, we have established an advisory group to analyze recent trends in enrollment and report to the President. For example, we have identified a recent downturn in both Jewish and African American enrollment, and we will closely examine those issues.

Commitment to greater institutional neutrality.

Columbia's President has adopted a position of institutional neutrality. The Provost's Office is working with a faculty committee to establish an institution-wide policy implementing this stance.

Advance Columbia's Tel Aviv Center.

Columbia has many ongoing activities and collaborations through its global efforts, including in Tel Aviv. Programming for the Columbia Tel Aviv Global Hub will launch in Q2 2025.

Creation of additional opportunities for constructive dialogue programming.

Columbia has and will continue to introduce numerous programs to improve dialogue among those with differences of opinion, and engaging with others with different and distinct viewpoints.

Development of K-12 Curriculum.

Columbia will develop and make widely available to K12 schools at no cost online products focused on topics such as how to have difficult conversations, create classrooms that foster open inquiry, dialogue across difference and topics related to antisemitism.

All of these steps have been underway and are intended to further Columbia's basic mission: to provide a safe and thriving environment for research and education, while preserving our commitment to academic freedom and institutional integrity.

Source: <https://president.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/03.21.2025%20Columbia%20-%20FINAL.pdf> or <https://ia800402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Columbia%20-%20Acceptance%20document%20-%20203-21-2025.pdf>.

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Letter from Columbia president:

Dear fellow members of the Columbia community:

As I have shared with you, we have been working this year on critical priorities for our University, which you can find on our "Fulfilling Our Commitments" website. We have shared our progress on several of our key priorities with the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the General Services Administration. You can find that document here, and on our website.

This past year has been one of enormous progress, where our community of thoughtful faculty, students, and stakeholders has shaped a principled and methodical approach to meeting the moment's challenges. Our response to the government agencies outlines the substantive work we've been doing over the last academic year to advance our mission, ensure uninterrupted academic activities, and make every student, faculty, and staff member safe and welcome on our campus.

We have much to be proud of as a community, and it has been a privilege to share our progress and plans. In the spirit of great American universities, we expect Columbians to engage in robust debate and discussion about our way forward, and we welcome it as an opportunity to shape the future of Columbia.

The way Columbia and Columbians have been portrayed is hard to reckon with. We have challenges, yes, but they do not define us. We are a community of scholars who have deep respect for each other and our mission. We teach the brightest, most creative students in the world, and we care deeply for each and every one of them. I have every faith in our ability to overcome the greatest of challenges. We stand resilient and brilliant.

At all times, we are guided by our values, putting academic freedom, free expression, open inquiry, and respect for all at the fore of every decision we make.

Standing together for Columbia,

Katrina Armstrong

Interim President, Columbia University in the City of New York

Source: <https://president.columbia.edu/news/sharing-progress-our-priorities>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:09 PM No comments:     

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